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Agenda items 14 and 108

The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixtieth year

Identical letters dated 26 September 2005 from the Chargé d'affaires a. i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I am writing in order to draw your attention to the most recent grievous attacks perpetrated against the citizens of Israel.

From 23 to 25 September 2005, the terrorist organization Hamas showered more than 40 Kassam artillery rockets onto the Israeli town of Sderot and elsewhere in the Negev, wounding five persons, two moderately, causing extensive damage and forcing inhabitants of the region to seek bomb shelters and reinforced rooms.

In response to the Kassam attacks and as an act of self-defence, Israel deployed forces around the Gaza Strip to prevent further assaults, targeted the terrorist infrastructure of Gaza and pursued a campaign to arrest wanted Palestinian terrorists. Consequently, Hamas issued a ceasefire, but later abrogated that call and fired additional Kassam rockets onto Israeli towns.

In a separate incident worth mentioning, some 20 Palestinians were killed on 23 September 2005 because of a Hamas explosion, when a truck rigged with munitions detonated during an armed parade in a crowded residential neighbourhood in the Gaza Strip. Hamas outrageously blamed Israel for the blast — another act of incitement and an attempt to disrupt efforts for peace at this sensitive moment in the region's history. Both the Palestinian Authority and Israel deny the veracity of this accusation.

Israel took a bold move for peace by disengaging from the Gaza Strip and areas in the northern West Bank. Although the international community has welcomed this step, Hamas returned the gesture with unwarranted violence. These attacks against the sovereign territory of the State of Israel constitute a serious terrorist aggression. In response to the terrorist attack on its people, Israel is exercising its right to self-defence, as would any other State when so attacked.

05-52569 (E) 280905

Ever since Israel's disengagement from Gaza, the Palestinian leadership has failed to rein in terrorist organizations. The central responsibility of the Palestinian Authority is to put an end to the lawlessness within its territory, which aims to murder Israeli citizens and jeopardizes the potential for peace in the region.

The continued rocket attacks from Gaza constitute a grave violation of international humanitarian law, not only because they target innocent Israeli civilians, but also because Palestinian residents' lives are put at risk. Palestinian terrorist organizations continue the ruthless tactic of using innocent Palestinians as human shields and civilian areas as staging grounds for terrorist atrocities. Virtually all terrorist fire from Gaza emanates from crowds or residential buildings, and hundreds of explosive charges and mines are purposefully planted within civilian areas.

Only when the Palestinian Authority dismantles terrorist organizations will peace become a possibility. Such a call is echoed by the Quartet, which remarked in its statement of 20 September 2005 that it "urges the Palestinian Authority to maintain law and order and dismantle terrorist capabilities and infrastructure". This statement sharply contrasts with the Palestinian Authority's policy of negotiating with these groups.

I submit this letter in follow-up to numerous letters detailing the campaign of Palestinian terrorism launched in September 2000, which document the crimes for which the terrorists and their supporters must be held fully accountable.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 14 and 108.

(*Signed*) Daniel **Carmon**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a. i.

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The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Identical letters dated 27 September 2005 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I am writing in order to draw your attention to the most recent terrorist attack perpetrated against the citizens of Israel.

On 26 September 2005, the terrorist organization Hamas admitted to killing Sasson Nuriel, a 51-year-old Israeli resident of the northern Jerusalem neighbourhood of Pisgat Ze'ev. Nuriel was abducted on 21 September 2005 and his body was found on 26 September 2005 in Beitunya, near the West Bank town of Ramallah. Hamas claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack and issued a graphic photo of Nuriel, bound and gagged, prior to his murder.

There should be no uncertainty on this matter: it is unacceptable for any community to condone the kidnapping, binding, gagging and murder of innocent civilians. Hamas killed Sasson Nuriel, an employee at a candy factory in the West Bank, who had close ties with Palestinian merchants, simply because he is Israeli and Jewish. Indeed it is Hamas's will to cleanse the region of all Jews; it states that ambition in its charter. Hamas recently publicized its goal to abduct as many Israelis as possible, by means of "kidnapping units". Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority has not attempted to dismantle this organization, but rather it negotiates with it. The Palestinian Authority should no longer confer with an organization that admittedly engages in the cold-blooded murder of innocent civilians; it should act responsibly and dismantle it.

The State of Israel took a bold move by disengaging from the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank. The onus now lies on the Palestinian Authority to prove it is a willing partner of peace. Only by fulfilling the first phase of the road map — stopping terrorism — can the partnership reach fruition. The Quartet echoed this appeal, when it stated on 20 September 2005 that it "urges the Palestinian Authority to maintain law and order and dismantle terrorist capabilities and infrastructure".

05-52732 (E) 280905

The international community should encourage the Palestinian Authority to act so these callous atrocities no longer continue.

I submit this letter in follow-up to numerous letters detailing the campaign of Palestinian terrorism launched in September 2000, which document the crimes for which the terrorists and their supporters must be held fully accountable.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 14 and 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Daniel **Carmon**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations

S/2005/611

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Letter dated 15 September 2005 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the Accra III Agreement on Côte d'Ivoire signed on 30 July 2004 in Accra, to the statement by the President of the Security Council of 5 August 2004 (S/PRST/2004/29) and to my previous letters transmitting to the President of the Council the reports of the Tripartite Monitoring Group established under the Accra III Agreement.

Please find attached the seventeenth report of the Tripartite Monitoring Group, covering the period from 1 to 31 August 2005 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

05-52825 (E) 031005

Annex

Implementation of the Accra III Agreement extended to cover the Pretoria accords

Seventeenth report of the Tripartite Monitoring Group, covering the period from 1 to 31 August 2005

I. Introduction

1. The present report is prepared pursuant to the Accra III Agreement of 30 July 2004, which established the Tripartite Monitoring Group and requested it to submit regular reports on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and on the progress made towards the implementation of the Accra III Agreement. The scope of the report is now extended to include progress made in the implementation of the Pretoria Agreement and Declaration. This seventeenth report covers major developments between 1 and 31 August 2005.

II. Overview

2. Following the ruling by the Mediator that the laws promulgated by President Laurent Gbagbo on 15 July 2005 were in conformity with the spirit and letter of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, the Forces Nouvelles declared on 25 August that they would not disarm while President Gbagbo remained in office, that they would not recognize the scheduled presidential elections to be held in the country in October 2005 and that they no longer recognized the impartiality of the Mediator, accusing him of siding with President Gbagbo. However, they did announce on 29 August that they would appoint their representatives to the Independent Electoral Commission.

3. The overall security situation had worsened considerably before the 25 August 2005 statement made by the Forces Nouvelles. On 20 August, the former Chief of Defence Staff General Matthias Doué gave a radio interview in which he openly called for the removal from power of President Gbagbo, threatening that if the international community were unwilling to do so, he would use all means to achieve his stated aim. This statement received the sympathy of the Forces Nouvelles. The statement was firmly condemned by the international community, and General Doué in subsequent press interviews appeared to have publicly backed off from his earlier statements.

4. The announced return to the country on 24 August 2005 of Henri Konan Bédié, former President and leader of the opposition party, the Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI) was also postponed sine die. The Houphouétiste Alliance (RDPH), an alliance of the political parties that had previously formed the Group of Seven (G-7) without the Forces Nouvelles, announced on 29 August that in its view, conditions on the ground would not allow for elections to be held and that consequently a transition should be organized. The Alliance therefore called on all the signatories of the various peace agreements to begin discussions on a transition period to take effect from 30 October, the constitutional deadline for elections.

5. The absence of opposition ministers at the Government of National Reconciliation (GNR) Ministerial Council meeting on 25 August 2005 is further evidence of the entrenched positions of the parties to the Ivorian crisis.

III. Developments in the peace process

The Mbeki Facilitation Mission

6. The Mbeki Facilitation Mission has faced the most difficult challenge to its authority since the African Union Mediation effort began. At its inception, a number of opposition figures and newspapers had predicted its failure to achieve a restoration of peace in Côte d'Ivoire through the holding of free and fair democratic elections. Following the Mediator's recent ruling on the question of the conformity to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement of the laws promulgated by the President, the opposition groups sought the withdrawal of the Mediator, accusing him of siding with President Gbagbo, this notwithstanding their clear agreement, in accordance with the Pretoria Agreement, endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1603 (2005), to undertake to abide by any decision taken by the Mediator in the crisis.

7. The Secretary-General of the Forces Nouvelles, Guillaume Soro, and two of his colleagues met with President Mbeki in Pretoria on 22 August 2005 to articulate their opposition to the ruling made. The Mediator reiterated his adhesion to his ruling, and his position that the Forces Nouvelles and other armed militia in the country must proceed with the cantonment phase of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) as set out in the Pretoria Agreement and reaffirmed in the Pretoria Declaration. Notwithstanding their disagreement with the content of the laws promulgated by President Gbagbo including the law on the Independent Electoral Commission, the Forces Nouvelles did announce on 29 August that they would authorize Mr. Soro to appoint their representatives to the Commission.

Disarmament and dismantling of militias

8. In the Pretoria Agreement, responsibility for the disarming and dismantling of all militias throughout the country was placed under the authority of the Prime Minister of the Government of National Reconciliation. The commencement of the actual disarmament of pro-government militia in the west of the country, which was set to begin at Guiglo with the disarming of some 2,000 individuals, failed to get under way on 23 August 2005 as scheduled. This was reportedly due to the National DDR Committee's not being able to pull together sufficient financial resources to commence the programme. Other delays were also reported due to the inability of the Committee to provide assurances to some of the militias of their being integrated into the National DDR Programme (PNDDR). Despite these delays, it was reported that the regroupment and dismantling of pro-government militia in the west had gotten under way on 27 August at the Committee site at Duékoué.

Forces Nouvelles zone

9. The leaders of the Forces Nouvelles met in Bouaké from 15 to 19 August 2005. Following their discussions, Mr. Soro travelled to Pretoria and met with President Mbeki on 22 August. Notwithstanding the return to Côte d'Ivoire of Mr. Soro and in spite of the measures taken by the impartial forces to ensure the security of Forces Nouvelles ministers in Government-controlled areas, the Forces Nouvelles ministers have now in effect as a group withdrawn their participation from the Government of National Reconciliation. The Forces Nouvelles announced on 25 August that they would not proceed with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration while President Gbagbo remained in office, nor would they recognize elections, and called on the Mediator to withdraw. This was a result of their inability to convince President Mbeki to reverse his ruling regarding the laws promulgated by President Gbagbo. However, on 29 August, the Forces Nouvelles announced that they would proceed with the nomination of their representatives to the Independent Electoral Commission.

Security of areas under the control of the Forces Nouvelles during the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process

10. Prior to the 25 August 2005 declaration by the Forces Nouvelles, the Mediation and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) had completed the development of the training programme for the 600 police auxiliaries drawn from within the ranks of the Forces Nouvelles, as agreed under the Pretoria Agreement to assist in policing Force Nouvelles zones during the phase of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. This training programme has commenced in Bouaké.

Education and end-of-year examinations

11. The Minister of Education announced on 26 August 2005 that an agreement had been reached with the Forces Nouvelles to allow for the holding of end-of-year examinations for academic year 2004-2005, which had been an outstanding issue since the end of the academic year. It has been proposed that throughout the month of September, examinations be held in Bouaké and Korhogo and other centres in the Forces Nouvelles zones so as to enable final examination results to be published before the scheduled new academic year 2005-2006 commences.

Electoral process

12. Notwithstanding the increased tension in Côte d'Ivoire, particularly in Abidjan, the official political parties have continued to mobilize their support base and constituents for the upcoming elections. Campaign rallies have continued unabated in and around Abidjan and other areas within Government-controlled territory, with the PDCI opposition party holding conventions throughout Government-controlled areas and electing Mr. Konan Bédié as their presidential candidate for the upcoming elections.

13. The arrival at post on 8 August 2005 of Antonio V. Monteiro, the United Nations Secretary-General's High Representative for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire is generally viewed as a welcome and timely development. The Independent

Electoral Commission, which was to have commenced its activities on 30 July, has not begun its operations owing to the stance of the opposition parties and the Forces Nouvelles in the controversy surrounding the laws promulgated by President Gbagbo. The National Institute of Statistics has been able to conduct pilot tests of its methodology for the compilation of the electoral registers in a number of areas in the Greater Abidjan zone pending the commencement of work by the Commission.

14. The failure of the Independent Electoral Commission to begin working and the continued inability, despite the efforts of the National Institute of Statistics, to complete the identification process and publish electoral registers 90 days before election date as required by the electoral law have created doubts whether elections can still be held on 30 October 2005, as constitutionally scheduled. In this regard, calls have been made by both the Forces Nouvelles and opposition political commentators for the elections to be deferred and a period of transition provided. Although the majority of the political commentators in the country have expressed reservations about the holding of elections, only the Houphouëtiste Alliance comprising the Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire, the Rassemblement des Républicains (RDR), the Mouvement des Forces de l'Avenir (MFA) and the Union pour la Démocratie et la Paix en Côte d'Ivoire (UDPCI), as well as the Parti Ivoirien des Travailleurs (PIT) has categorically stated its desire for a transition period.

15. Notwithstanding the voicing of concern throughout the reporting period, Mr. Monteiro met with President Mbeki on 17 August 2005 and issued a statement indicating the continued aim of holding elections on 30 October. However, subsequent statements accredited to him indicate his readiness, if absolutely necessary, to consider some adjustment of the scheduled election programme. Mr. Monteiro is expected to present his report on the holding of elections to the Security Council on 31 August.

Press

16. Press coverage of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire continues to be of concern. The press agencies have been called upon by national and international observers to adhere to a policy of avoiding incitement to hatred, intolerance and xenophobia. This message was emphasized by the Chief of Staff of the Forces de Défense et de Sécurité (FDS) General Philippe Mangou in a meeting with the press corps in which he called for responsible reporting of news in order not to inflame passions in the country.

Human rights

17. The human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire has continued to worsen in the reporting period. Reports continue to be received from various human rights organizations of serious human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law including arbitrary detentions, killings, child trafficking and rape throughout the country in both the Forces Nouvelles- and Government-controlled areas.

Humanitarian assistance, economic recovery and reconstruction

18. The Ivorian economy continues to suffer the adverse consequences of the crisis. The Direction Générale des Impôts (DGI), the tax authority, has continued to try to widen the scope of the tax collection base through various schemes in Government-controlled areas in an effort to increase State revenues. The economy continues, however, on its downward trend and the outlook remains bleak as infrastructure continues to deteriorate and fall into disrepair.

19. Humanitarian organizations continue to complain of harassment at checkpoints and the non-respect at times of their symbols, assets and personnel. The living conditions of the Ivorian population, particularly in the west and the north, continue to worsen, with significant interruptions in the supply of potable water in both rural and urban areas, and diminishing access to basic health care. Common previously checked childhood diseases and mortality rates are on the increase. There are reported to be currently 500,000 vulnerable internally displaced persons of which some 120,000 live in Abidjan and 30,000 in Yamoussoukro.

20. The supply of food for households has generally remained stable; however, population displacements and the increase in transportation costs render this situation fragile as many host households find themselves increasingly unable to cope with the rising food prices.

21. Although the Comité National pour le Redéploiement de l'Administration, the national body responsible for the redeployment of the civil service, has decided to redeploy 17,000 civil servants to the north and 3,000 to the west, the civil servants required for the provision of amenities cannot be deployed until their safety has been ensured.

IV. Conclusion

22. Côte d'Ivoire is at a crossroads and is facing grave dangers. The foreseeable and predictable catastrophe for the Ivorian state and people, due primarily to the endless scheming of the political actors, is now staring all of us in the face and looming larger by the day. Given the general threat of chaos that could be posed by a failure to hold the critical presidential elections by the constitutional deadline of October 2005, the time has come for the international community to call to effective account all those who, from personal or political party interests, are holding the nation and its beleaguered population hostage.

Signed on behalf of the Group

Ambassador Raph Uwechue
Chairman
31 August 2005

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The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixtieth year

Letter dated 17 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the pleasure of enclosing the press statement of the ninety-sixth regular session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from 6 to 7 September 2005 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 14, 15, 94 and 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Tawfeeq Ahmed **Almansoor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

05-52759 (E) 061005 111005

Annex to the letter dated 17 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Press statement issued at the ninety-sixth regular session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council 2 and 3 Sha`ban A.H. 1426 (6 and 7 September A.D. 2005)

The Ministerial Council held its ninety-sixth regular session on Tuesday and Wednesday, 2 and 3 Sha`ban A.H. 1426 (6 and 7 September A.D. 2005), in Jeddah, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Chairman of the current session of the Ministerial Council. Attending was His Excellency Abdul Rahman bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The Ministerial Council offered its deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sultan bin Abd al-Aziz, the royal family and our brothers and sisters the Saudi people, on the loss to the GCC countries, the Arab nation and the Islamic Ummah of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud. The Council prays to the Almighty to grant the deceased His infinite grace and forgiveness, bring him to dwell in paradise and reward him amply for the memorable achievements he had the good fortune to carry out, including the expansion of the Two Holy Places, the construction of houses of God and the propagation of the Holy Book; for his blessed efforts in serving Islam and in elevating the prestige of Muslims; and for his promotion of the causes of right and justice, not only in the region but throughout the Arab world and elsewhere.

The Ministerial Council offered its congratulations and best wishes to King Abdullah bin Abd al-Aziz and Crown Prince Sultan bin Abd al-Aziz on their taking over the reins of government of their country, praying God to assist them and grant them success in pursuing beneficent and constructive work in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, bringing prosperity to its people, our brothers and sisters, and continuing the advancement of the noble work of the Cooperation Council towards broader and more comprehensive horizons together with their brothers, the distinguished leaders of the GCC States, may God preserve them. The Council further commended the resoluteness of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in continuing his earnest and tireless work in the service of Islam and in support of Arab and Islamic causes, the establishment of international peace and security and global economic growth.

The Ministerial Council also expressed its sincere good wishes to His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, congratulated him on the success of his surgery and his safe return and beseeched the Almighty God to grant him health and strength and take him under His care in order that he might continue his charitable and beneficent work on behalf of the State of Kuwait and its loyal people.

The Ministerial Council reviewed the achievements realized since its previous session in the area of joint cooperation in various fields and the developments that had taken place in the sphere of regional and international political and security issues.

In the field of economic cooperation, the Ministerial Council considered the reports and minutes of a number of ministerial committees as well as reports on joint economic activity.

In the area of communications, postal service and information technology, the Council considered the recommendations made by the fourteenth meeting of the ministerial committee regarding settlement rates between communications companies in the GCC States, the issuance of a common postage stamp in all the GCC countries on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Council and coordination in the field of postal security and Internet information security.

With regard to trade, the Council considered the conclusions reached by the trade cooperation committee at its thirty-second meeting regarding the model trademark law (regulations); the committee's approval of the terms of reference of the consumer protection committee; and the recommendations of the third symposium on combating commercial fraud and imitation.

In the area of planning and development, the Council considered the conclusions reached by the ministerial committee at its fourteenth meeting with respect to population policy and the measures and programmes adopted by GCC countries to correct imbalances in demographic structure; efforts towards the issuance of a human development report on the GCC countries; and the conducting of a study on the establishment of a GCC statistical centre.

In the area of transport and communications, the Council considered the conclusions of the ministerial committee at its ninth meeting relating to the study of the establishment of a railway connecting the member States, the elimination of the difficulties facing the communications sector, the study of the establishment of a Gulf navigation aid company and a study to assess transport infrastructure in the member States.

On the question of GCC relations with other countries and international groups, the Ministerial Council considered the results of the second round of negotiations between the GCC States and China and the meetings of experts from the two sides, held in Beijing on 20 and 21 June 2005, at which the discussions revolved around issues related to the agreement on the establishment of a free trade zone between them. The Council also considered the results of meetings of experts from GCC States and the European Union held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat on 26 and 27 July 2005 within the framework of the negotiations on free trade between the two sides. The Ministerial Council expressed its satisfaction over the results of the meetings.

In the area of human and environmental affairs, the Ministerial Council took cognizance of the note of the General Secretariat on follow-up to the steps taken towards completing the implementation of decisions and guidelines that emerged from the twenty-fifth session of the Supreme Council. These related to the field of education; the approval of the ministers of education, expressed at their meeting held in Kuwait in February 2005, of the implementation of a number of programmes

contained in the document on the overall development of education; the conclusions reached by the ministers of higher education at their eleventh meeting, held at the General Secretariat in March 2005, on programmes relating to higher education; and the working group formed by the General Secretariat to prepare an assessment report on the progress of work in implementing the decisions taken by the Supreme Council.

In the field of protection of human and environmental health from the effects of depletion of the ozone layer, by way of support to the efforts being made at the national, regional and international levels within the framework of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Council recommended that, in the GCC countries, the system of uniform guidelines for the control of substances that deplete the ozone layer should be submitted to the Supreme Council at its next session.

In the military sphere, the Ministerial Council was informed of progress in military cooperation during the preceding period. It expressed satisfaction with the steps carried out and emphasized the importance of completing the various related procedures and arrangements.

In the sphere of security coordination and cooperation between member States, the Council considered the measures taken by those States and expressed its satisfaction concerning them.

The Ministerial Council expressed its sorrow and its censure regarding the terrorist acts against peace-loving citizens that had occurred in a number of countries. It emphasized that such criminal acts only added to the determination of the world to combat terrorism and consolidate international cooperation against it and to eliminate the terrorists and those who were behind them. The Council reiterated the need for all States to join forces in order to fight terrorism in all its forms.

The Council emphasized once again that it welcomed and supported the Riyadh Declaration and the recommendations that had issued from the International Counter-Terrorism Conference. One of the most important of those recommendations was the proposal by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud, for the establishment of an international counter-terrorism centre, which would doubtless make a vital and active contribution to international counter-terrorism efforts. Hence the Council's support for efforts aimed at establishing a task force under United Nations auspices to study the recommendations concerning the centre that were contained in the proposed declaration.

Regarding the work of the Advisory Board of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Ministerial Council considered the views of the Advisory Board concerning the evaluation of the Cooperation Council's work over the past 23 years as well as its views on terrorism.

In the political sphere, the Ministerial Council extended its congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of Iran, on his victory in the Iranian presidential elections. It expressed the hope that the coming period would be marked by positive developments in the relations between the Council and Iran, based on good-neighbourliness, shared interests and non-interference in internal

affairs, and that the Islamic Republic of Iran would take concrete confidence-building steps towards the establishment of security, stability and prosperity for the peoples of the region.

The Ministerial Council, discussing a number of important issues raised at both the regional and international levels, reasserted its well-known views and staunch positions on them, namely:

- Its support for the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, and over the territorial waters, airspace, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone of those islands, as constituting an integral part of the United Arab Emirates;
- Its continued regret over the failure of contacts with the Islamic Republic of Iran to produce any positive results towards resolving the issue of the three islands, which would contribute to strengthening security and stability in the region;
- The consideration of all peaceful means towards the restoration of the right of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands;
- Its invitation to the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond to the efforts of the United Arab Emirates and the international community to resolve the issue through direct negotiations or recourse to the International Court of Justice.

With regard to Iraq, the Council reviewed the new developments taking place there, in particular the further deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation owing to increasing violence and the thwarting of efforts to further the political process aimed at establishing constitutional foundations approved by all segments of the Iraqi people for a new, united Iraq enjoying security, stability and prosperity for all Iraqi brothers and sisters.

Here again the Ministerial Council reaffirmed its known and well-established positions in this regard, the most important of which are as follows:

- The condemnation of all criminal terrorist acts that target civilians and the kidnapping of innocent persons, including ambassadors and other members of the diplomatic corps in Iraq and members of humanitarian and religious institutions;
- Support for and endorsement of all efforts towards national reconciliation and the participation of all segments of the Iraqi people in the political process, so as to avoid the negative repercussions of a failure of those efforts on Iraq's unity, independence and sovereignty;
- Its continued expectation that the Iraqi people will join hands in order to achieve the security, stability and well-being to which they aspire, reaffirming the unity of Iraqi soil and reasserting their Iraqi and Islamic identity, so as to become once again effective members of the Arab world and the international community;
- The expression of the hope that Iraq will regain its security, stability and prosperity and resume its positive, active role in the Gulf and the Arab world in general as well as internationally, abiding by the resolutions constituting international legitimacy and living in peace and security with its neighbours and the rest of the world;

- Renewed condemnation of the mass killings of Iraqi nationals and the killing of Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees and nationals of other States, committed by the former Iraqi regime, as well as of the flagrant violations of human rights, Islamic and other fundamental moral principles and Arab values that continue to come to light as mass graves are uncovered;

- Encouragement of the United Nations, in collaboration with the Iraqi Government and other authorities concerned, to redouble efforts to arrive at a final solution for the return of Kuwaiti property, the Kuwaiti national archives and other documents seized by the former Iraqi regime during its occupation of Kuwait.

The Ministerial Council reviewed recent developments in the Palestinian territories and the Middle East peace process and emphasized the following points:

- The Ministerial Council hoped that the evacuation of the Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip would be followed by steps towards total withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian lands so as to enable the Palestinian people to build an independent State with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital;

- In that connection, the Council reaffirmed the commitment of the GCC countries to the peace initiative proposed by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abd al-Aziz, at the Arab Summit held in Beirut in 2002, and adopted by the Summit as the Arab peace initiative for the region. The initiative, which is based on the resolutions establishing international legitimacy, is considered the correct framework for achieving a just and comprehensive peace and resolving the Palestinian question;

- The Ministerial Council cautioned against the threats issued by extremist Jewish groups calling for the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and emphasized that such threats could only inflame Muslim sensibilities, as they related to violations of their holy places;

- It emphasized further that a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East would be achieved only with the establishment of an independent Palestinian State having Jerusalem as its capital and Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 and from all Arab lands in southern Lebanon;

- The Council appeals to the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the States of the European Union, the United Nations and the international community as a whole to continue their efforts to activate the road map and the Arab initiative in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

- It calls once again on the international community to take action to turn the Middle East into a region free of all weapons of mass destruction, including the Gulf region, and to induce Israel to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and subject all of its nuclear facilities to the international inspections regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency as a basis for any future security arrangements;

- Welcoming the new Lebanese Government, it reaffirmed the desire of the GCC countries to support the political and economic stability and security of their brothers and sisters, the Lebanese people. The Council expressed its hope

that all national forces would come to an accord that would maintain Lebanon's unity, cohesion and well-being and condemned Israel's repeated threats and acts of aggression against the country's sovereignty and independence.

The Ministerial Council expressed its sadness and its sincere condolences to its brothers and sisters, the people of Iraq, over the terrible calamity that had taken the lives of hundreds of Iraqis when the Al-A'immah Bridge collapsed, and prayed God Almighty to protect them with His grace and grant their families and loved ones solace and fortitude.

The Council also expressed its deep sorrow over what had befallen the city of New Orleans in the United States of America as a result of hurricane Katrina, which had caused losses of life and property. The Council expressed its solidarity with the United States of America stemming from the feelings of friendship that tie the GCC countries to the United States.

Issued in Jeddah on 3 Sha'ban A.H. 1426 (7 September A.D. 2005)

United Nations S/2005/613

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 September 2005

Original: English

Letter dated 28 September 2005 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 24 June 2005 (S/2005/458) submitting the summary and the full report of the Commission of Experts established to review the prosecution of serious violations of human rights in Timor-Leste has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the contents of the report and, prior to further consideration of it, would request the Secretary-General, in close consultation with his Special Representative for Timor-Leste, to submit a report on justice and reconciliation for Timor-Leste with a practically feasible approach, taking into account the report of the Commission of Experts, as well as the views expressed by Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

(*Signed*) Lauro L. **Baja**, Jr.
President of the Security Council

05-52895 (E) 290905

United Nations S/2005/614

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 September 2005
English
Original: French

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular resolutions 1565 (2004) of 1 October 2004, 1592 (2005) of 30 March 2005, 1596 (2005) of 18 April 2005 and 1621 (2005) of 6 September 2005,

Reaffirming its commitment to respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and its readiness to support the peace and national reconciliation process in that country, in particular through the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC),

Noting that the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of MONUC, as contained in resolutions 1565 (2004), 1592 (2005), 1596 (2005) and 1621 (2005), adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, until 31 October 2005;

2. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

05-53199 (E) 300905

United Nations S/2005/615

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 September 2005

Original: English

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Taking note of the letter to the President of the Security Council from the Secretary-General dated 14 September 2005 (S/2005/593),

Decides that notwithstanding Article 12 of the Statute of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and notwithstanding that Judge Christine Van Den Wyngaert's elected term as a permanent judge of the Tribunal will in accordance with Article 13 bis of the Tribunal's Statute only begin on 17 November 2005, she be assigned as a permanent judge to the Mrksic et al. case which is due to commence on 3 October 2005.

05-53180 (E) 300905